

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team which made on-the-spot visit;

(c) whether the State Government have issued licenses for sand mining for such areas in violation of rules whereas the standing trees were found; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environmental Status Report of Industrial Area Parwanoo

3439. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Environmental Status Report of Industrial area, Parwanoo (H.P.); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, with findings in the report and the comments of the Central Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Information on Forest and Health of Eco-System

3440. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information on forest and health of eco-system is scattered and a set of criteria and indicators is needed to help improve quantity and quality of information to decision-makers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a forest management tool to measure compliance with and relevance of policy is also required and accountability through this process should be to the local people and to the nation as a whole; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plan to achieve the aforesaid targets to make the eco-system function and ensure vitality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is true that management of forest should be in consonance with the National Forest Policy. Criteria and Indicators provide a nationalised frame work for monitoring management practice towards Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Government of India on November 9, 1999 constituted a National Task Force on SFM, which has recently submitted its report. Other steps taken by the Government to conserve eco-system are as under:

1. A network of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.
3. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.
4. Afforestation activities are being undertaken.
5. Steps have been taken to preserve biodiversity.

Guidelines to States on forestry programmes

3441. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on forestry programmes are not properly followed by State Governments;

(b) whether several State Governments are still groping with the old guidelines on forestry programmes, due to which protection of forests has been affected; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to ensure that State Governments follow guidelines issued by the Union Government from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India issues guidelines to State Governments on various issues, from time to time for effective protection and development